## What is claimed is:

1	1. A stereoscopic microscope, comprising:
2	a light source section;
3	an illumination optical system having an optical axis and including a projection optical
4	system that forms a single image within the projection optical system and which irradiates a light
5	flux from the light source section onto an observation object via the projection optical system;
6	an observation optical system that includes an objective lens, left and right zooming
7	optical systems for changing the magnification of the observation optical system, and left and
8	right eyepiece optical systems;
9	wherein
10	a center position of said light source section is de-centered from the optical axis of the
11	illumination optical system.
1	2. A stereoscopic microscope, comprising:
2	a light source section;
3	an observation optical system that includes an objective lens, left and right zooming
4	optical systems for changing the magnification of the observation optical system, and left and
5	right eyepiece optical systems;
6	an illumination optical system that includes a reflecting member for leading the light flux
7	from the light source section to an object, the reflecting member being inserted into and removed
8	from a space on the object side of the objective optical system in conjunction with a zooming
9	operation of the left and right zooming optical systems.

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- 3. The stereoscopic microscope according to claim 2, wherein the reflecting member has two
- 2 rounded notches for abutting peripheral portions of the light paths of the two observation light
- 3 fluxes so as not to eclipse the light fluxes in these light paths.
- 4. The stereoscopic microscope according to claim 3, wherein the two rounded notches each
- 2 encompass 120 degrees or more of curvature and at least the outer edges of the two rounded
- 3 notches abut peripheral portions of the light fluxes.
- 5. The stereoscopic microscope according to claim 1, wherein the illumination optical system
- 2 includes a variable magnification optical system for changing the range of the illumination field
- in conjunction with a change in magnification of the observation optical system.
- 1 6. The stereoscopic microscope according to claim 5, wherein
- 2 the illumination optical system has a reflecting member for leading the light flux from
- 3 the light source section to the object and the reflecting member is positioned in the vicinity of an
- 4 image of the light source section; and

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- 5 the reflecting member is de-centered from the optical axis of the illumination optical
- 6 system in a direction that is opposite to the direction that the center of the light source section is
- 7 de-centered from the illumination optical system.
- 1 7. The stereoscopic microscope according to claim 1, wherein the de-centering amount of the
- 2 center of the light source section relative to the illumination optical system is changeable.
  - 8. The stereoscopic microscope according to claim 1, wherein:

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an optical member with a non-circular output end is arranged near an image formation 2 3 surface of the illumination optical system, 4 the light source section includes a light guide, and 5 the shape of the output end of the light guide is substantially similar to the non-circular 6 shape of the output end of the optical member. 1 9. The stereoscopic microscope according to claim 3, wherein a reflection prevention member is 2 affixed to the area of the reflecting member having the two rounded notches. 1 10. The stereoscopic microscope according to claim 9, wherein the reflection prevention 2 member is a light shielding cloth. 1 11. The stereoscopic microscope according to claim 1, wherein the illumination optical system 2 has a reflecting member that leads the light flux from the light source section to an object, 3 the reflecting member being inserted into and removed from a space on the object side of the 4 objective lens in conjunction with a zooming operation of the observation optical system. 1 12. The stereoscopic microscope according to claim 11, wherein the reflecting member has two 2 rounded notches for abutting peripheral portions of the light paths of the two observation light 3 fluxes so as not to eclipse the light fluxes in these light paths. 1 13. The stereoscopic microscope according to claim 12, wherein the two rounded notches each

encompass 120 degrees or more of curvature.

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- 1 14. The stereoscopic microscope according to claim 11, wherein the reflecting member is moved
- 2 toward the object and toward the optical axis of the observation optical system when the
- 3 observation magnification is changed from low magnification to high magnification.
- 1 15. The stereoscopic microscope according to claim 13, wherein the observation magnification
- 2 is within a range of 7 to 25.
- 1 16. A stereoscopic microscope according to claim 2, wherein the reflecting member is moved
- 2 toward the object and toward the optical axis of the observation optical system when the
- 3 observation magnification is changed from low magnification to high magnification.
- 1 17. The stereoscopic microscope according to claim 4, wherein the observation magnification is
- 2 within a range of 7 to 25.
- 1 18. The stereoscopic microscope according to claim 3, wherein the two rounded notches each
- 2 encompass 120 degrees of curvature and continually abut peripheral portions of the light fluxes
- 3 over 120 degrees of curvature at the maximum magnification of the observation optical system.